

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on May 10, 2004.

Each of independent claims 22, 27, 37, and 48 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. As a result, claims 22-29, 35-40, and 46-52 are now pending in this application.

frab' 1/15/04
T/S

**Applicants Request The Examiner To
Consider Information Disclosure Statement
Previously Submitted on December 29, 2003**

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have*

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on December 29, 2003. To date, Applicants have not received the Form 1449 filed therewith and marked as being considered by the Examiner. Pursuant to the provisions of MPEP 609, Applicants request that a copy of the Form 1449, initialed as being considered by the Examiner, be returned to the Applicants with the next official communication.

1/26/04

**Applicants Request The Examiner To
Consider Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131
Previously Submitted on January 20, 2004**

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the "Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131" that Applicants filed with the "Supplemental Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116" on January 20, 2004.

The Examiner has not yet considered the "Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131" filed on January 20, 2004. Alternatively, if the Examiner has considered such Declaration, he has not notified Applicants of his decision concerning such Declaration.

In his most recent Office Action, the Examiner stated that the previously cited prior art was withdrawn "in anticipation of applicant swearing behind the prior art". Applicants respectfully point out that as of the date of the most recent Office Action (May 10, 2004), Applicants had already submitted a "Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131".